

# 10 years of MapRoulette

Looking back, and ahead

Martijn van Exel  
SOTM 2022, Firenze

**Thanks**

to all who made it possible  
for us to be here today.

**Celebrate connections.**

**Celebrate OSM.**

Let's turn the clock back 14 years...

# [Talk-us] TIGER Map Updates

Ian Dees [ian.dees@gmail.com](mailto:ian.dees@gmail.com)

Sun Dec 30 02:26:31 GMT 2007

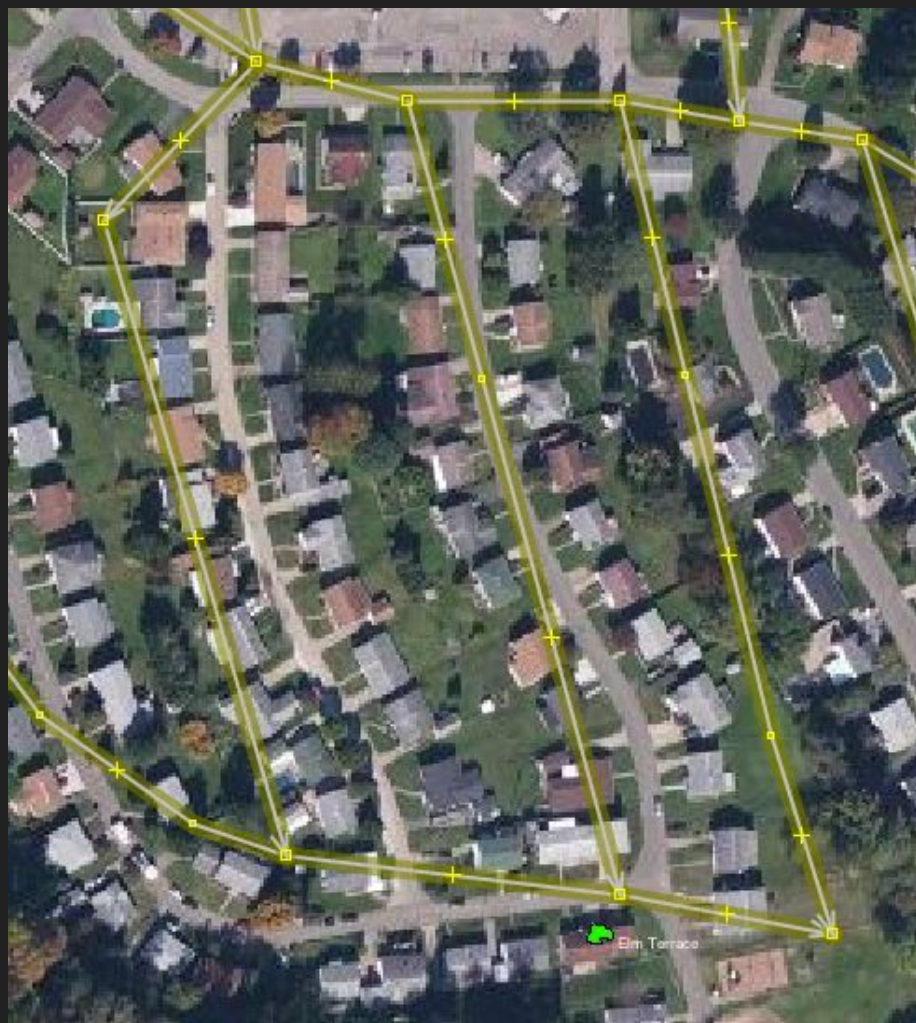
- Previous message: [\[Talk-us\]](#) [\[OSM-talk\]](#) [\[Talk-GB\]](#) ["Unsurfaced road" and "Byway"?](#)
  - Next message: [\[Talk-us\]](#) [TIGER Map Updates](#)
  - **Messages sorted by:** [\[date\]](#) [\[thread\]](#) [\[subject\]](#) [\[author\]](#)
- 

Hi there,

I just spent a few hours working on Milwaukee, WI and started browsing the wiki. I noticed that someone is importing TIGER line data. I didn't get the impression that anyone was positive about whether pre-existing OSM data would be merged with TIGER data or if one or the other would get erased or duplicated.

Should I keep making changes to the map or should I wait for the TIGER data to show up?

-Ian









# Then the **License Change** happened (2012)

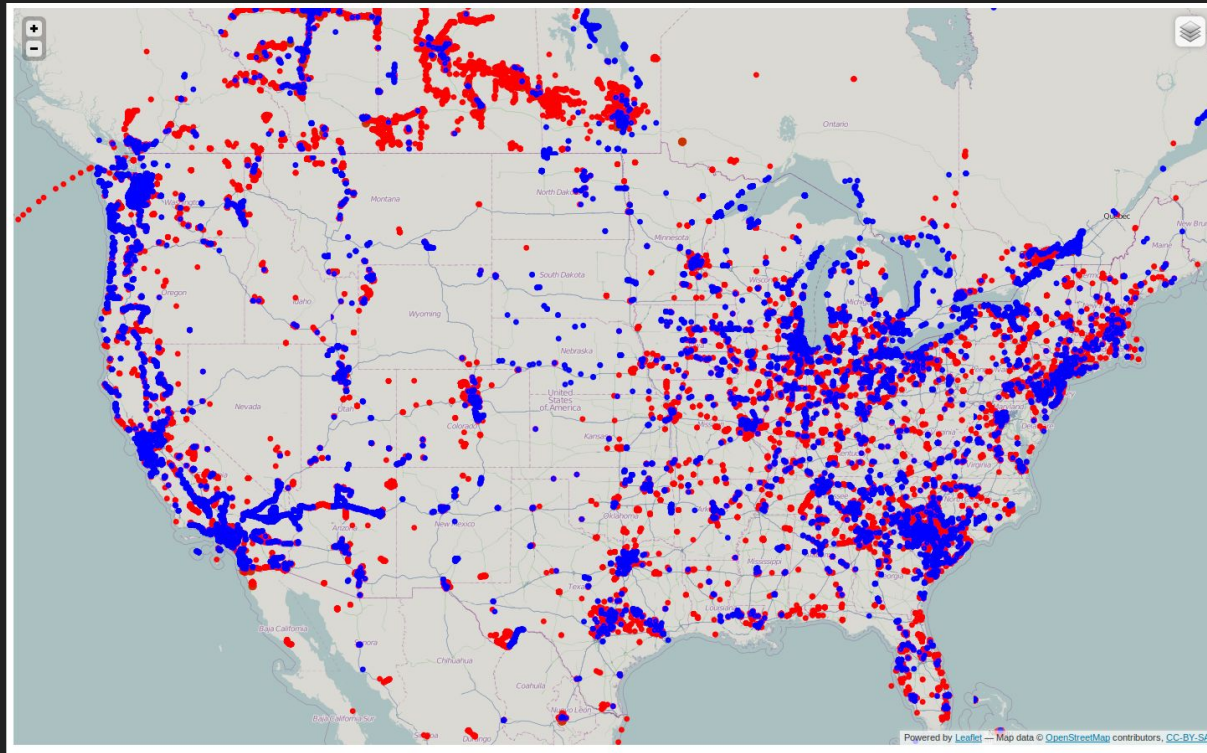
OSM changed the license of the map data from Creative Commons to ODbL in 2012. All mappers who had contributed needed to agree to keep their data in the map.

This made the situation in the United  
States **worse**

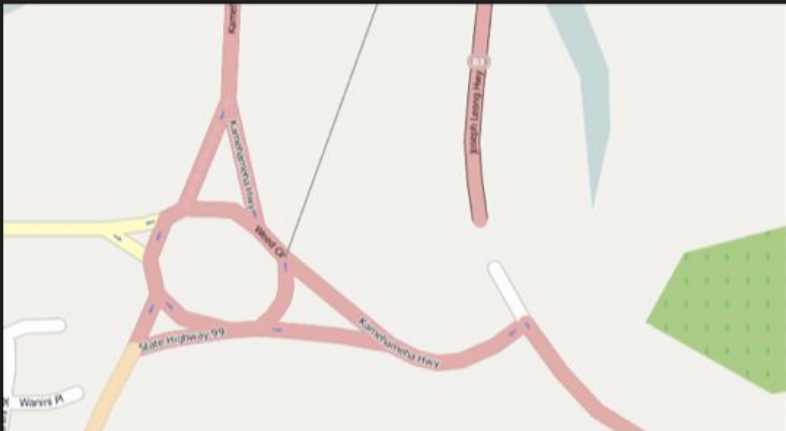
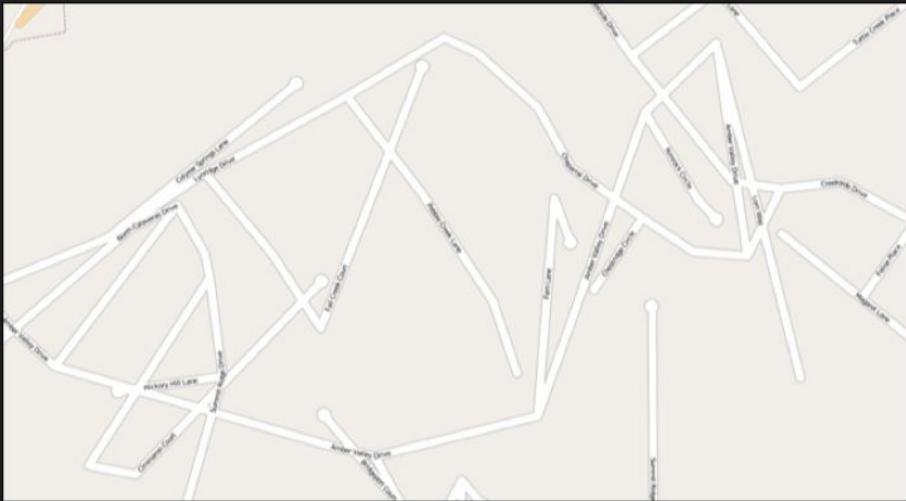
**Map Data** from mappers who could not  
be reached or didn't agree **was deleted**

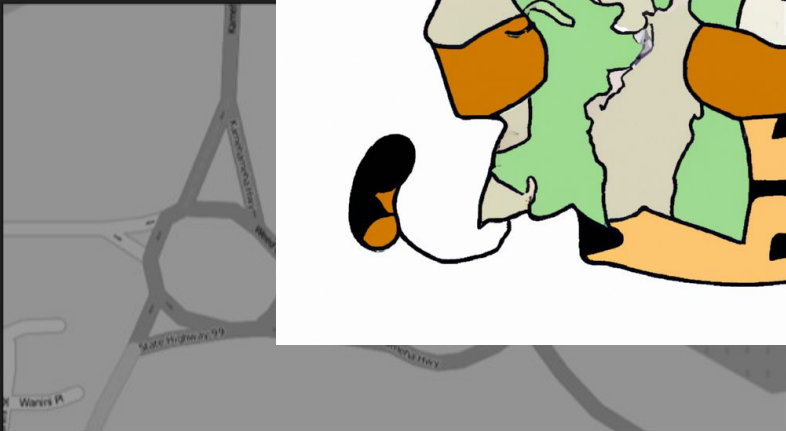
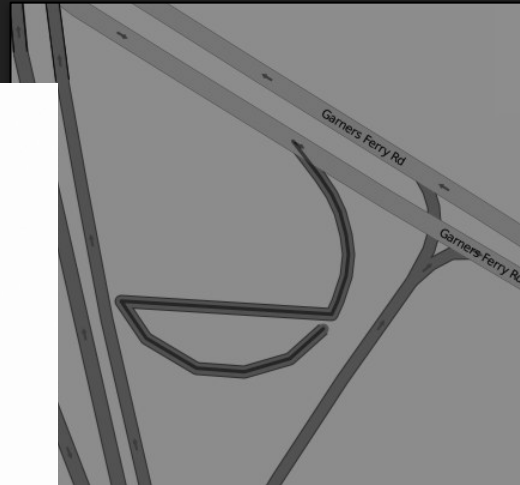


# 2012 - License Change Redaction



Great blog post about the effort to contact mappers about the license change here  
<http://ksmapper.blogspot.com/2012/10/licensed-to-map-what-happened-to-la.html.html>





*“a tiger holding a map screaming, sad”, DALL-E 2*

**An enormous clean up and  
improvement effort was needed**

**The community was still quite small in  
2012**

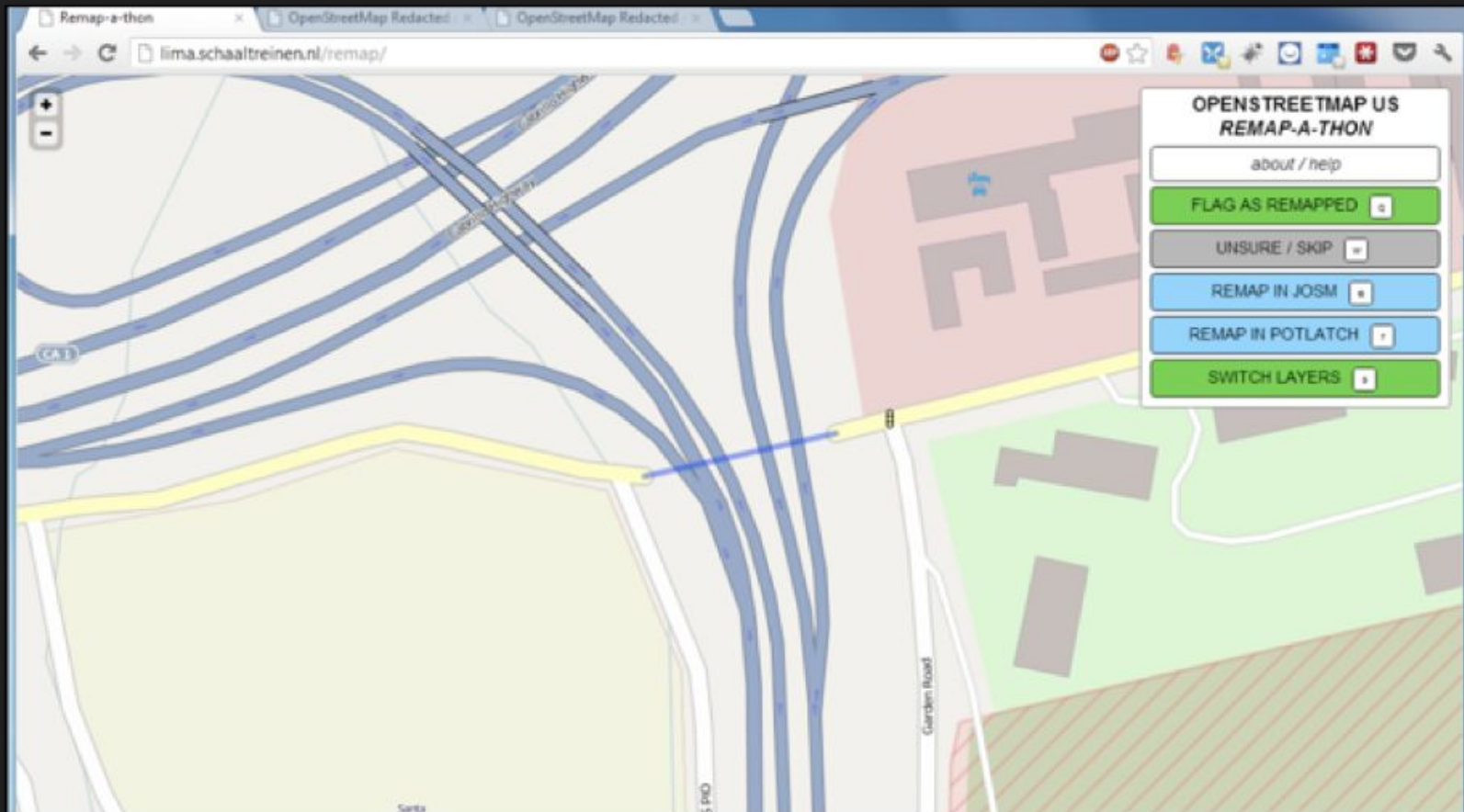
<100 daily active mappers

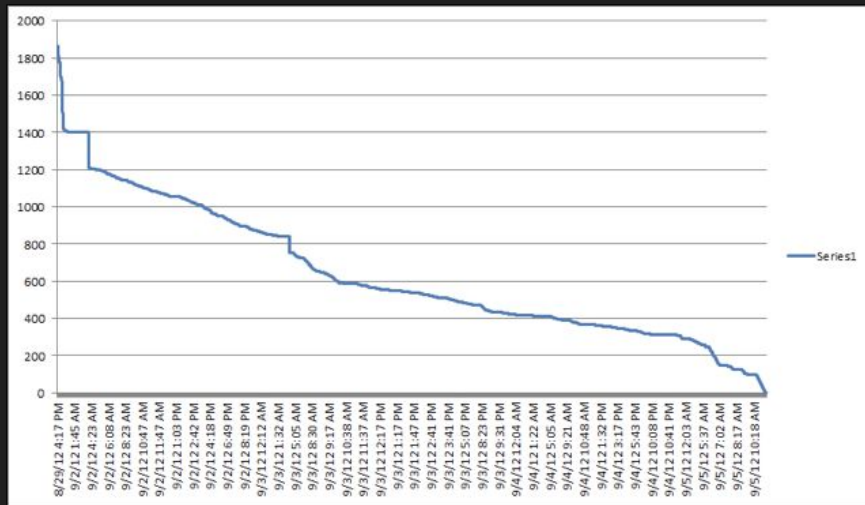
**Something was needed to organize the  
work**

So the idea of MapRoulette was born: A tool to work on small, randomly assigned tasks

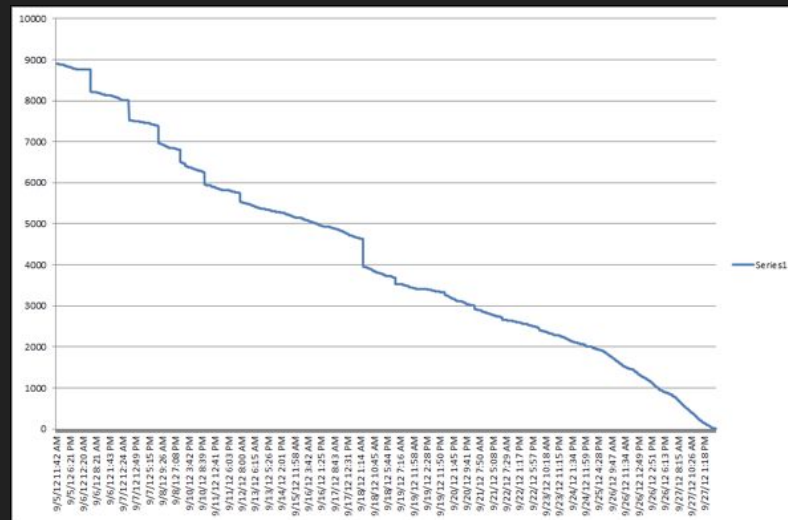
The aims were:

1. To make a huge mapping effort feel **more doable by breaking it up in small tasks**
2. Make repetitive mapping **more fun**





Remapping all motorways / trunks in 1 week



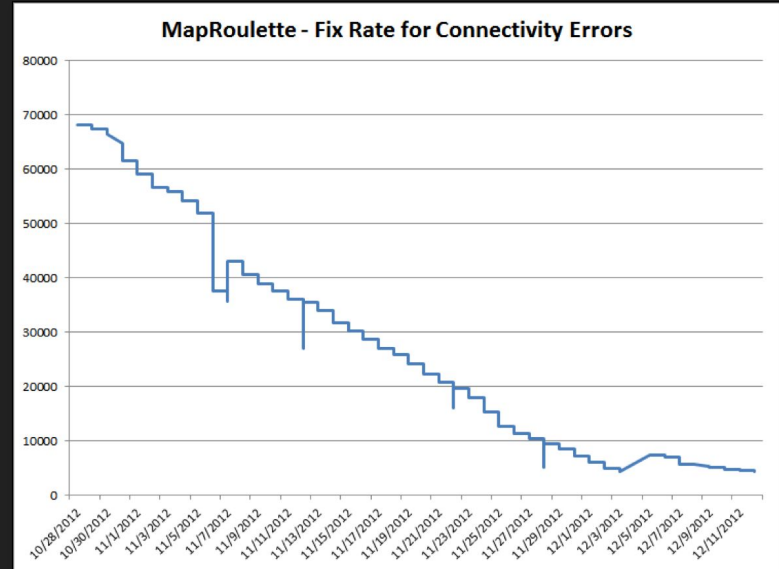
Remapping all other roads in 3 more weeks

**11,000 total fixes in 4 weeks**  
(with <200 daily active mappers in the US)



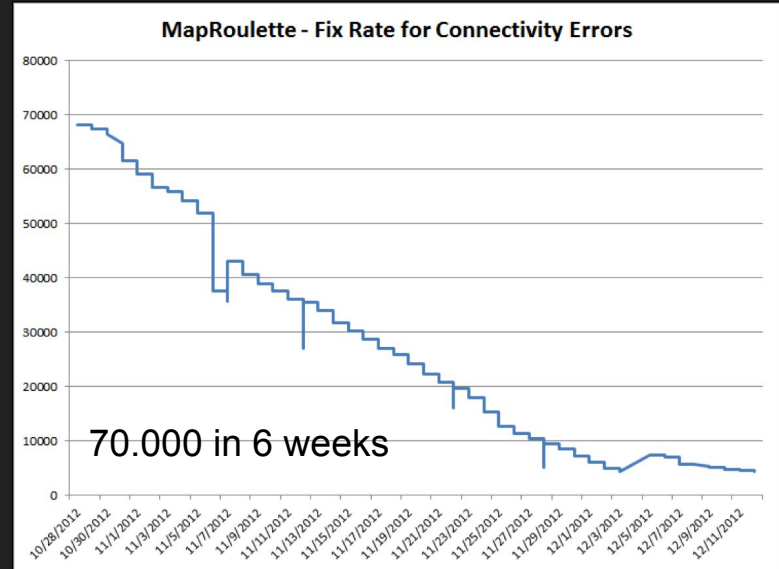
# MapRoulette proved to be a great way to focus the community on a mapping goal

So I decided to try other projects!



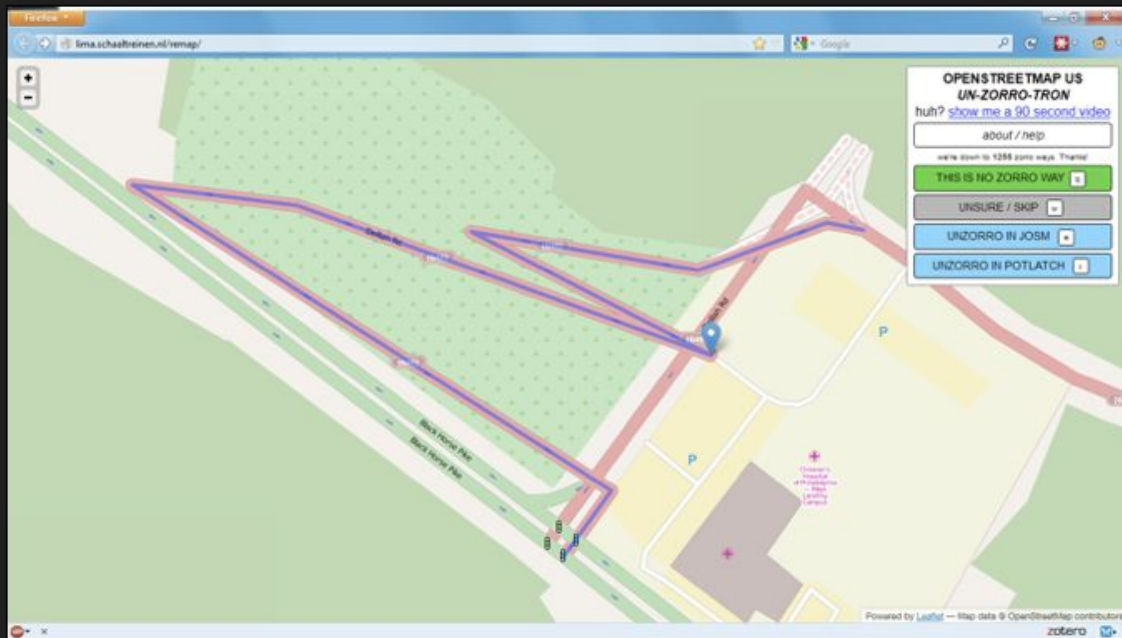
# MapRoulette proved to be a great way to focus the community on a mapping goal

So I decided to try other projects!



# Zorro Ways

(ways that have unusual sharp angles)



Finally, I decided to give the tool a name

# MapRoulette

and make it more useful by

letting **anyone create their own tasks**

## Most Requested Features

“I want to work on my local area only”



Built in, needs user interface

“I want to submit my own challenges”



There's an API for submitting & maintaining challenges

“I want non-US challenges”

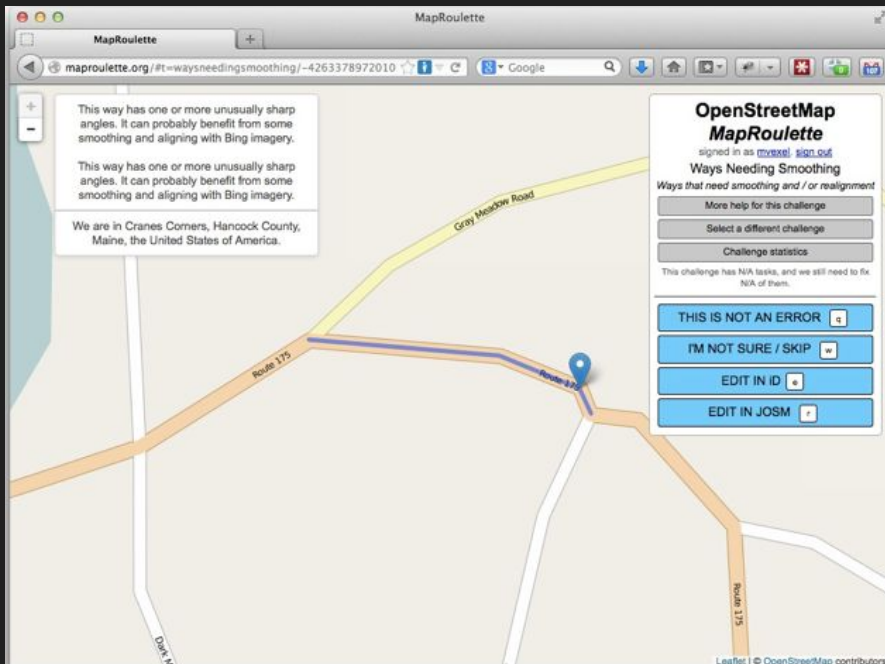
“I want more different things to work on”



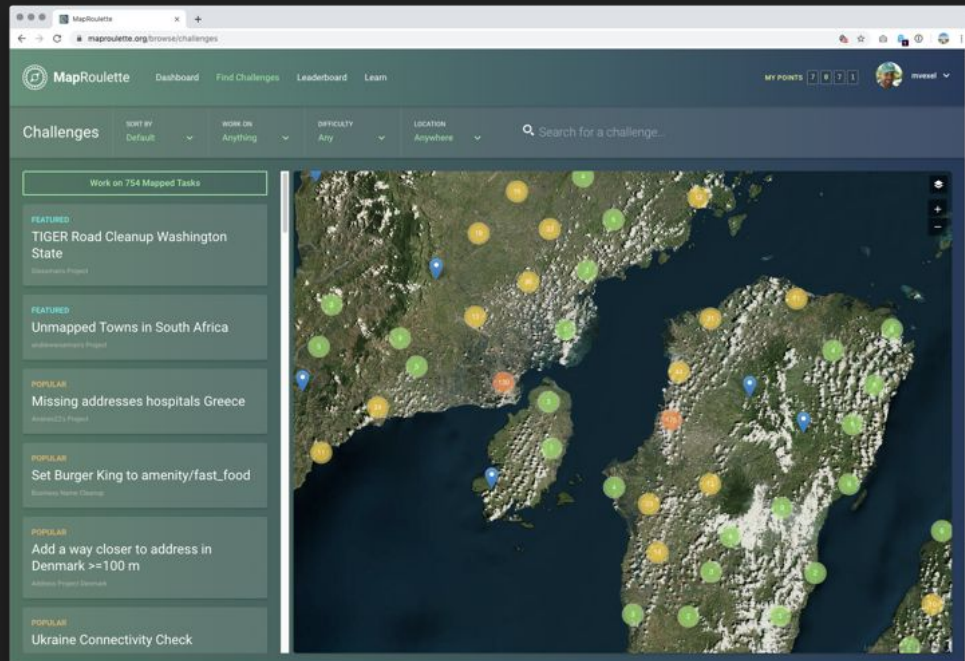
We have multiple parallel challenges



# Fast forward to today



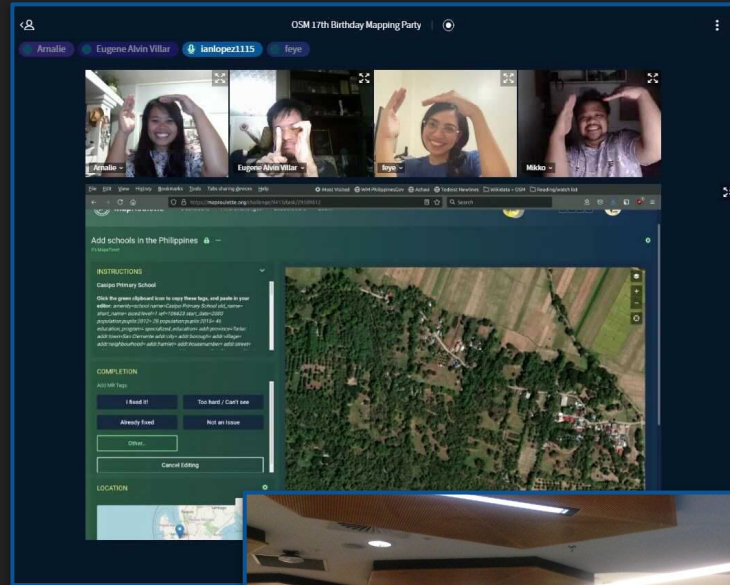
2012



2022



**MapRoulette is  
still a great tool  
to make repetitive  
mapping fun and  
work together on  
large mapping  
tasks**

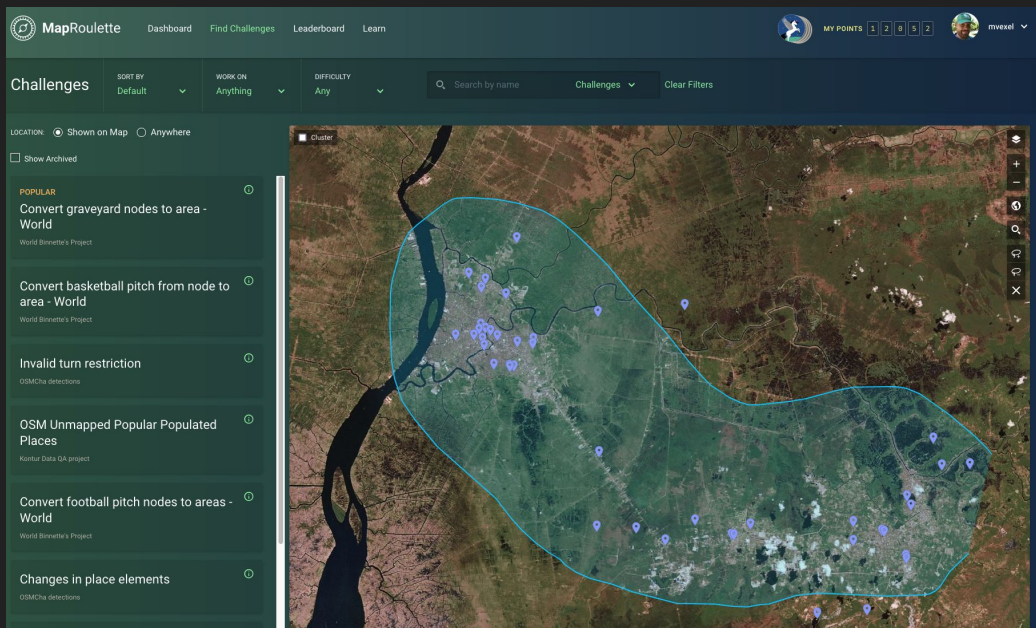


# What can MapRoulette do today?

- anyone can create challenges
  - available in 17 languages
    - teams and task review
      - a free and open API
- documentation + learning resources
- **different challenge types: virtual, tag fix, and cooperative challenges**



# Virtual Challenge



- Create your own challenges from already existing tasks
- Use search / filter tools and draw polygon on map
- Useful for mapping parties where you want a smaller goal

# Quick Fix Challenge

MapRoulette Dashboard: Find Challenges, Leaderboard, Learn

MY POINTS: 1 2 0 5 2

tunnel=yes (zamiast building\_passage) wewnątrz budynków

INSTRUCTIONS

Tagu tunnel=building\_passage używa się do przejeźdów w budynkach (np. blokach), przejazdów drogi pod fragmentami budynków itp. Nie jest to tag właściwy do tuneli pod ziemią, jaskiń i smyżach. Szczegółowy opis można znaleźć na Wiki.

Fragment drogi w przejściu w budynku powinien mieć dodatkowo tag tunnel=building\_passage. Początek i koniec tego fragmentu powinien rozpoczynać się z obrysem budynku. W tym zadaniu starajemy się wybrać także przejścia które są dobrze narysowane, ale źle etykietowane. Jeśli gdzieś się to nie udało można od razu poprawić korzystając z zewnętrznego edytora.

COMPLETION

Add MR Tags

Are the proposed OSM tag

Yes

Skip


Current Editor: Edit in Rapid

PROPOSED OSM TAG CHANGES

Current: yes

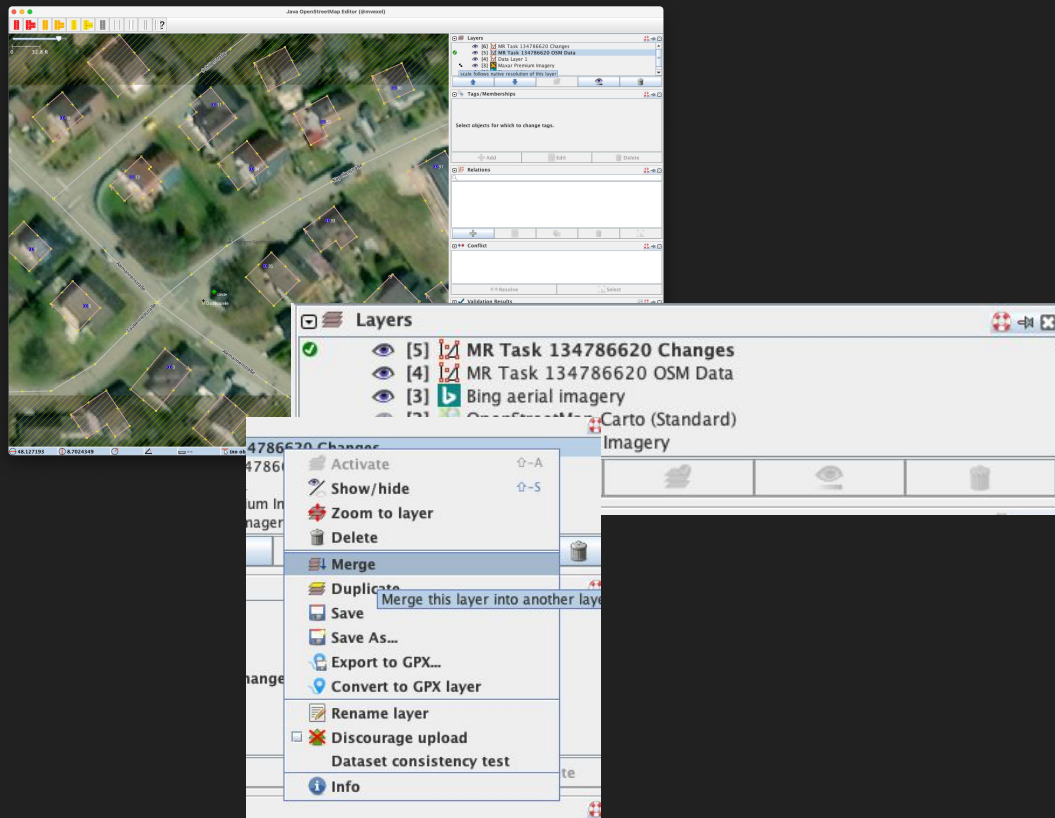
Proposed: building\_passage

Show all Tags Edit Tags



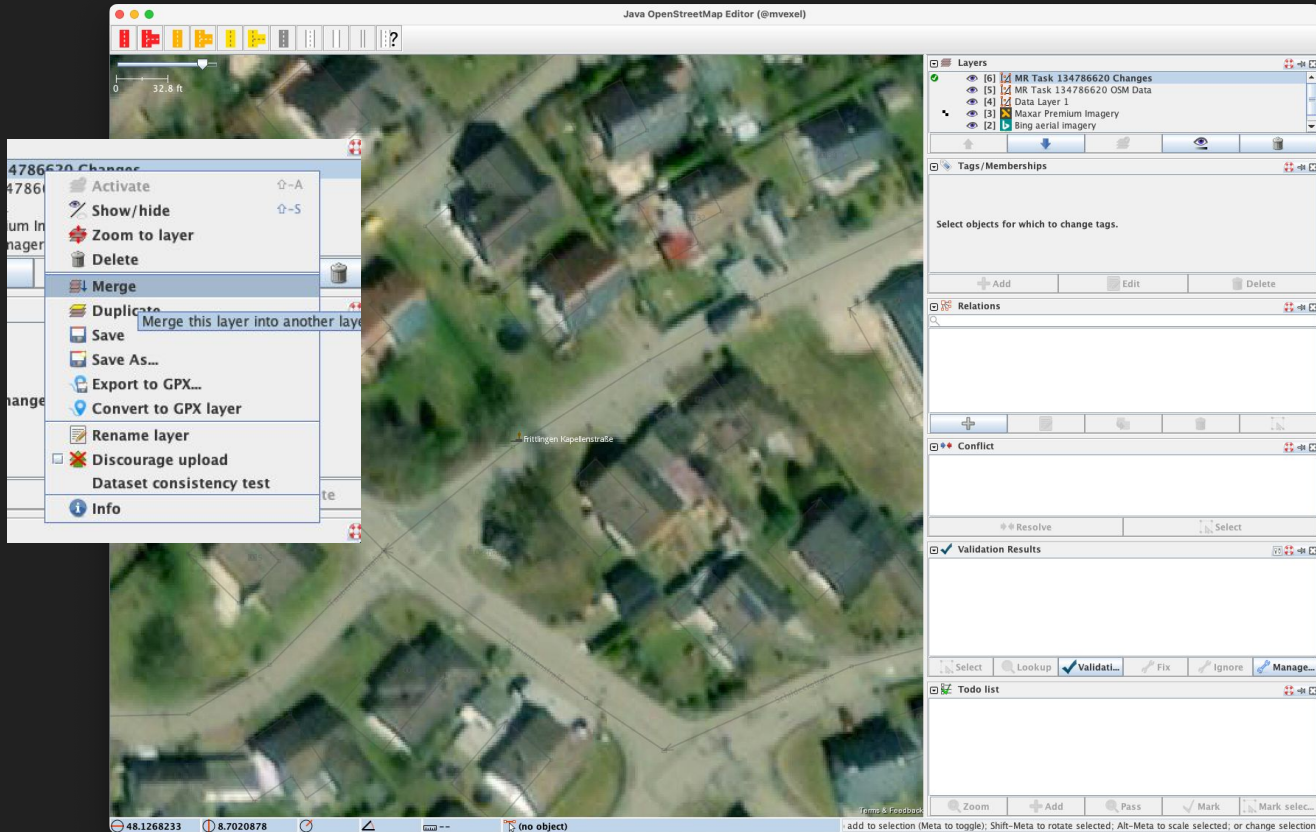
- Tag changes pre-defined
- No editing in iD or JOSM needed
- Useful for manual cleanup of deprecated tagging

# Cooperative Challenge




- Tasks have built-in changesets
- Appear as separate data layer in JOSM
- Useful for manual review and adding of external data

# A cooperative Challenge





2:00 - 5:00 pm CAT  
3rd JUN, 2022

 Youth Mappers  
 Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team  
 Map Lesotho  
 OSM Africa

**OSM AFRICA MONTHLY MAPATHON**  
MAPPING LESOTHO

This mapathon will be hosted on Zoom and coordinated by OSM Africa with support from the HOT Africa Hub.

**REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE:**  
OSM Africa Monthly Mapathon: Mapping Lesotho

 OSM AFRICA  
 OPENSTREETMAP AFRICA  
 HOT AFRICA HUB

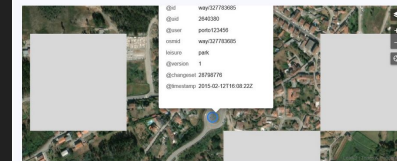
## Validating Parks from Pokemon Go users (well mostly...)

Posted by HumCarta on 27 October 2019 in English (English).

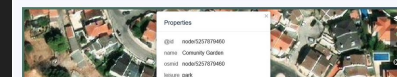
Recently at the Portuguese OpenStreetMap Telegram group we have been discussing the issue of the Pokémon Go Players that become OSM contributors with bad intentions, by adding fake parks or wrongly to their in-game interest.

We decided to check how many parks existed in Portugal by using [overpass turbo](#) back in August (thanks to Luis Fortes for the help). To our surprise there was over 7000 parks. We decided to create a Maproulette mission to validate the parks. Some are indeed hard to validate by arm chair mapping, some are not. Up to now we have validated 20% of the parks on OSM and acknowledged that more than 12 percent were indeed badly tagged and only 7% were correctly tagged.

As example, gardens of private property or grass in roundabouts.



<https://maproulette.org/challenge/5003/area/24888572>



# What have mappers accomplished with MapRoulette?

**Add schools in the Philippines**  
It's MapaTime!

**DIFFICULTY:** Normal  
**TASKS FROM:** December 30, 2012  
[View Leaderboard](#)

Public schools in the Philippines are more than just a place for learning, they play important secondary roles as:

- de facto *community centers* in the neighborhood;
- designated *polling precincts* during elections; and
- essential *temporary shelters* during emergencies.

69% FIXED (27612/39966)      2% SKIPPED (776/39966)  
 1% ALREADY FIXED (250/39966)      3% TOO HARD (1234/39966)  
 0% NOT AN ISSUE (1/39966)

Tasks Remaining: 10,014 (25%) of 39,966

[Sign in to get started](#)

**OSM FIJI SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

**28 Tuesday 2-5pm FJT**

Open Data Socialisation Workshop

- Industry Experts Talk
- QGIS Tips I
- Giveaways

**29 Wednesday 2-4pm FJT**

Mapathon

- Mapping and Validation
- Maproulette Challenge
- Giveaways

OSM Fiji is supported by:

 Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team



# Adding schools in the Philippines

## Philippines/OSMaPaaralan

< Philippines

This project is a portmanteau of OSM + Map + Paaralan - to collaboratively map public schools (paaralan) in the Philippines, on OpenStreetMap.

### Contents [hide]

- 1 It's a wrap!
- 2 Background
- 3 Data from DepEd
  - 3.1 Attribution
- 4 Statistics
- 5 Micro-tasking
  - 5.1 Issues
- 6 Activities
  - 6.1 Hashtag
- 7 References



A heart-shaped wordcloud of OSM usernames who mapped at least 1 school in the Philippines, as of 23rd October 2021.

### It's a wrap! [edit] [edit source]

As of 23rd October 2021, the public mapping phase was considered complete. The effort contributed to the 284% growth of mapped schools since 2018, and now stands at 46,638 schools. Most of these schools are mapped as polygons, enriched with attributes provided by the Department of Education (DepEd).

A diary post to document their project wrap-up thoughts was posted [here](#), included a wordcloud of usernames who contributed schools to OSM in the Philippines in the frame to the right of this page.

MapRoulette Dashboard: Find Challenges, Leaderboard, Learn

MY POINTS: 1 2 0 5 2 mvoxel

### Add schools in the Philippines

It's MapATime!

**DIFFICULTY:** Normal  
**TASK DATA SOURCED:** December 30, 2012  
[View Leaderboard](#) | [Conversation](#)

Public schools in the Philippines are more than just a place for learning, they play important secondary roles as:

- de facto community centers in the neighborhood;
- designated polling precincts during elections; and
- essential temporary shelters during emergencies.

**98% FIXED** (39148/39966) **0% SKIPPED** (16/39966)  
**0% ALREADY FIXED** (186/39966) **1% TOO HARD** (499/39966)  
**0% NOT AN ISSUE** (0/39966)

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

[Start](#) [Favorite](#) [Review](#) [Manage](#)

OSM Philippines added 40.000 paaralan (public schools) to the map using MapRoulette and official data.

Of course, there are challenges when managing large-scale MapRoulette challenges. According to Erwin Elario, "The main challenge for this project is getting OSM license-compatible data, and the data clean-up that had to be done before getting it to the tasking manager... With the on-going review, mapping and validation, we are confident that public school data we now have in OSM are better than the official DepEd data, albeit still incomplete."

# Map Completion in Belgium

OSM Belgium have their own tasking tool called **MapComplete** (check it out). They are also using **MapRoulette** to check OSM against official data.

Create & Manage / Landbouwgebruikspcelen (Vlaanderen) / Ontbrekende hoptuinen

Edit Challenge Move Challenge Rebuild Tasks Clone Challenge Delete Challenge Unarchive Challenge

This challenge was archived on June 11, 2022 because the tasks are more than 6 months old. You will need to rebuild the Tasks before you can unarchive the Challenge.

**OVERVIEW**

Status: Finished  
Discoverable: ☒  
**PROJECT NOT DISCOVERABLE**  
Keywords: landuse boundary  
Challenge Created: December 07, 2021  
Tasks Last Updated: December 07, 2021  
Task Data Sourced: December 07, 2021

**COMPLETION PROGRESS**

93% FIXED (81/87)	0% SKIPPED (0/87)
0% ALREADY FIXED (0/87)	3% TOO HARD (3/87)
3% NOT AN ISSUE (3/87)	

8/14/2021 - 8/14/2022

**TASKS**

Cluster

64 20

FILTER BY STATUS FILTER BY REVIEW STATUS FILTER BY PRIORITY FILTER BY PROPERTY

SELECTED: 0 TASKS SHOWN: 100% (87) OF 87 TASKS

FEATURE... INTERNA... STATUS PRIORITY ACTIONS COMMENT

There are road and sign related challenges, and more recently challenges to add / improve vineyards and hop fields



Seppe Santens

@seppe\_santens

Replying to @lalonde and @PlantNetProject

In Flanders, vineyards and hop fields are mapped very well. A while ago, [@osm\\_be](#) compared OSM data with government data (from [@DepartementLV](#)) and mapped missing parcels using [@maproulette](#)

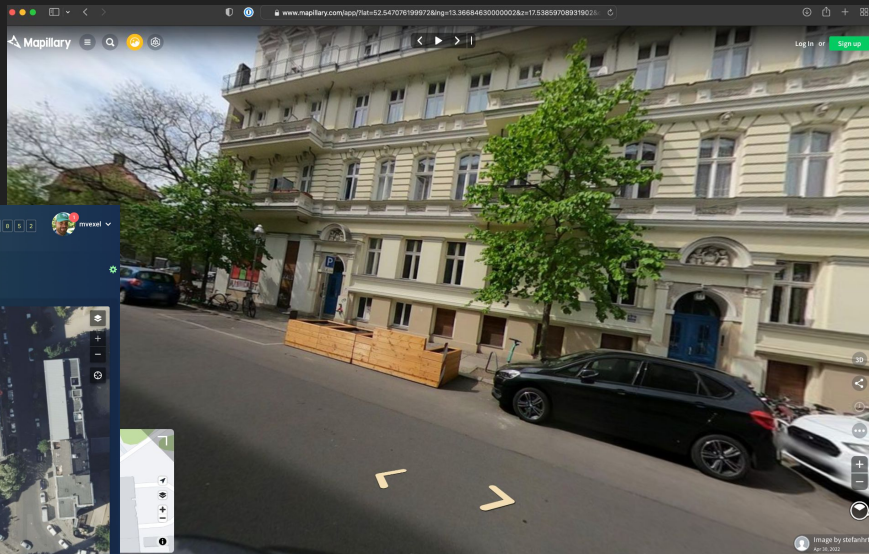
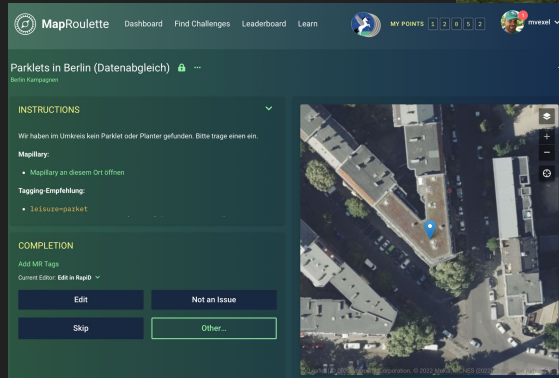


# “Parklets” in Berlin

Berlin has an initiative to **create parklets throughout the city**. The [OpenStreetMap Parkraum Project](#) aims to **add these to OSM**.

They use a **MapRoulette challenge** to do this.

Each task is **linked to a recent Mapillary image** to verify the parklet exists.



**What's next** for MapRoulette?

# More **Integrations** with other apps

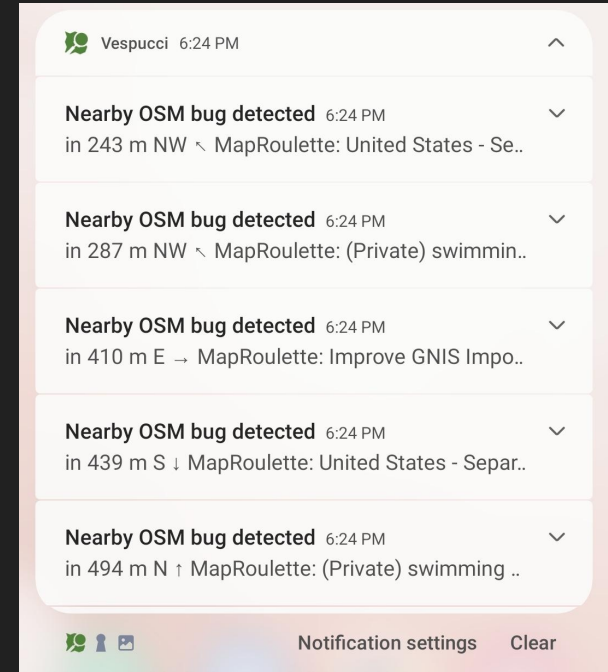
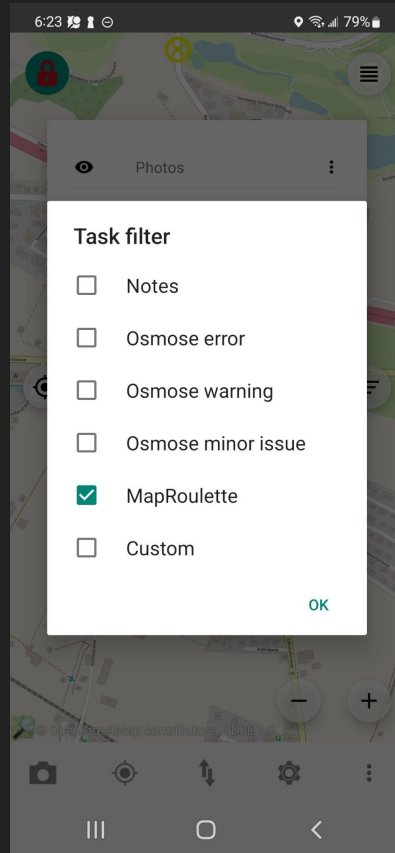
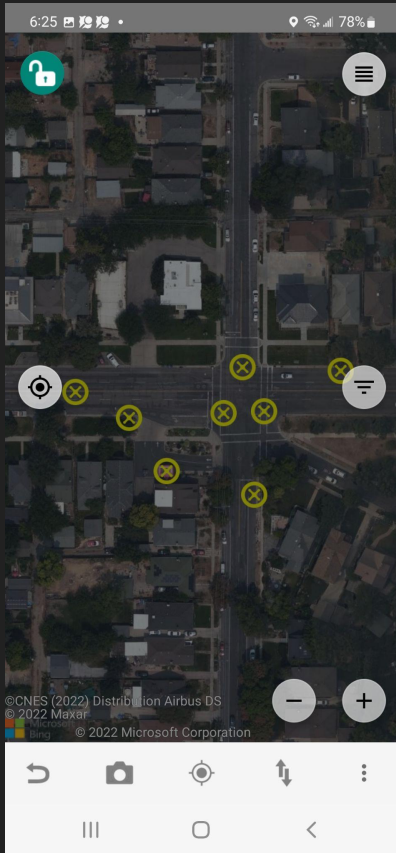
StreetComplete / GoMap!! / MapComplete / Vespucci / OSMAnd / (Rap)iD

- make the API easier to access
- encourage 'local knowledge required' challenges

## There are **plenty of good mobile apps**

I don't think we need a *MapRoulette Mobile*, but perhaps make [maproulette.org](https://maproulette.org) mobile friendly?

# MapRoulette - Vespucci integration



# Improved **communication** between challenge makers and mappers

The tools are there but sometimes too hidden away. It needs to be very easy to communicate

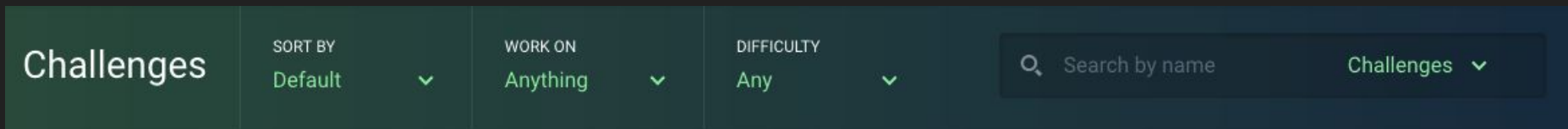
## More **accountability** for challenge makers



We already have auto-archiving and improved notifications to challenge makers when their challenges are completed. This can be further improved.

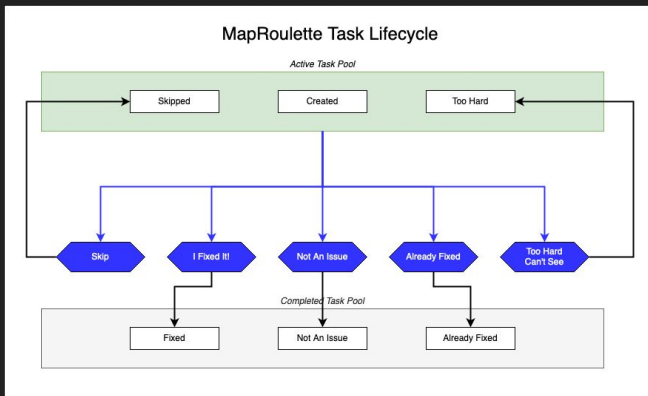
# Better discovery

More ways to search and filter. Make it easier to split a challenge into smaller areas. Making sure that challenges are current and relevant.



## Reconsider the Task Lifecycle

“Too Hard”, “Can’t Fix” “Skip”, “Already Fixed” confusing too many mappers. Make these actions clearer? Add more options? Perhaps “Request Help From Local Mapper”?





# Thank you!

Let me know your ideas for MapRoulette

**Martijn van Exel**

@mvexel / @maproulette

[learn.maproulette.org](https://learn.maproulette.org)

# Thank you!

Let me know your ideas for MapRoulette

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